

HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 13 No. 09 - September, 2005

MRAC Officers

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Last month we experienced a devastating hurricane--one that proved to me at least that we as a people, as a government, as a country, are not prepared to deal with reality. We saw first hand the problems caused by inflated clashing egos, and the actual inadequacy of the leaders involved.

Ascension to leadership cannot be the popularity contest we have made it to be. This and other incidents have clearly demonstrated that we really need to take a step back and review our electoral process and make sure that the people elected to lead us--the people we imbue with power of decision over our well being; those people who "want the job"--are really qualified to perform it.

The election process should turn into a job interview for all levels of government: from the mayor of New Orleans on up to the President of the US and every office in between. All we need to do to establish the criteria involved is make a quick comparison between former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani on 9/11 and the mayor of New Orleans as Hurricane Katrina approached and struck. I wish to offer my apologies to you if this paragraph strikes a political note. It needs to be said.

It remains to be seen to what extent Amateur Radio was involved. Early reports from friends in the area indicated that "hams" were not being allowed to participate directly. Perhaps we'll learn more in the coming days and weeks.

On a different note, and closer to

home, our club started another instruction class for the Technician license. We tried a new location this time and hit a large jackpot. More than 15 students signed up, and we seem to have a very dynamic class in an ideal location.

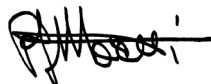
What we need now is more support from club members in this endeavor. Two members have agreed to be instructors. While they can go the distance, it would be nice to have a few back-ups.

You can help set up the room, greet folks as they arrive, even talk with students about amateur radio. Multiple interests and various aspects of the hobby can be demonstrated.

Some Elmers are also needed. We have young people eager to learn and apply "the art" of amateur radio, but the instructors are hard pressed to teach, demonstrate, sponsor, and go on with some of the Elmer work required to steer this enthusiasm into productive amateur activity. Please come to our class and see what you can do to help!

As for me, my health continues to improve. I still don't have as much energy as I would like, but I am building up my energy level and my energy reserves so I can continue to function. My thanks to those of you who have expressed concern, and thanks also for all your well wishes!

73,



Patrick
W9UQ

President
Patrick Moretti` W9UQ

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NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.2700+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.1600 6 m. SSB Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Fri.	8:30 PM	28.4900 MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri.	9:00 PM	145.3900- W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.6700-	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Sat	9:00 PM	146.9100- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.9850 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650+	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.5650 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.8000+ FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)			SWAPnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.9100- Information Net
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.1300	ARRL voice news	Sun.	9:00 PM	146.9100- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when we have our Christmas Dinner.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

After chairing the committee that "ruled" The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club's annual February FM Simplex Contest, I have two eager co-chairmen now in charge. Joe, N9UX and Jeff, K9VS have accepted the responsibility of running the show. Jeff is an experienced contester on all bands from home and this year, Joe almost swept the board with first place certificates as a rover. I will continue on the committee but anticipate many new flavors in the rules. Brian, K9LCQ, will continue his skillful production of winner's certificates and Mark, AB9CD, will again function wherever and whenever needed.

73,

73/Aherm

Sherm, KB9Q

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9CD K9LCQ W9UQ
AE9G WB9PTC KF9XL
KB9Q

Our thanks goes to:

Rita Doneis, Tom Fuszard, and Hal Newton for proofreading the 'Chatter' this month.

Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter'.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter'.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

**T h a n k
Y O U !**



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 8/25/05

The meeting was called to order by club President, Patrick, W9UQ, at 7:04 p.m.

The microphone was passed for those members and visitors present to introduce themselves.

Patrick welcomed the members and recognized our visitors.

Tom, AB9EK, read the treasurer's report. There were no additions or corrections. A motion was asked for to accept the treasurer's report as read. The motion was made by Sherm, KB9Q, and seconded by Pancho, KA9OFA.

The July meeting minutes were read by club Secretary, Brian, K9LCQ. Tom, KF9PU, had minor changes to the minutes to clarify a couple items.

1.) When the proposal for dropping the code requirements (NPRM) is released there is a 60 day comment period after the notice is published in the Federal Register and then a 15 day period for rebuttal for a total of 75 days.

2.) When the MRAC VEC process applications for licenses all applicants will be asked if there is a name change involved.

Patrick read an announcement the club had received inviting all club members as individuals to attend a Ground Hog Party of North America (dinner actually) hosted by the Watertown & Rock River Radio Clubs. Cost is \$12.00. The

dinner will be held on October 8 at the Moose Lodge, 1212 Juneau Street, Hwy 16 Bypass & Hwy "R" in Watertown.

Howard, AB9FH, announced a change of venue and time for the Technician class starting next month. The location will be the ITT campus located at 63rd and Layton Avenue. The class will run from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.. The change was prompted by a number of requests from ITT students.

Dave, WB9BWP, the club historian, continued to have a dialog with Yvonne Robel, daughter of the 2nd president of the club back in 1920. We have received a number of glass slides, many of which identify early members of the club. Dave will continue to examine the slides and catalog them.

Dave also read a very nice letter we have received from her.

Dave is now the official trustee for the club call and repeater and everything to do with the W9RH call sign as the paperwork submitted since the last meeting has cleared.

Dave answered the question, who is legally responsible for what is said over the repeater? The answer from Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC was in the form of a question. Who's call sign do you hear? The answer is of course the originating station and the trustee. Riley stated that he would go after both the originating station and the trustee for violations.

Tom, AB9EK, announced that if you have not received your copy of the 'Chatter to see him to confirm the delivery ad-

dress.

The microphone was passed for those present to make any amateur radio comments. Several members took the opportunity to discuss their recent amateur radio activity.

Patrick described a box of antennas that were donated to the club some time ago. Most were used for testing some are usable within the amateur frequencies without modification with the remainder needing to be modified. Minimum bid should be \$1.00 per antenna. The antennas will be available for viewing after the meeting. Please pay the treasurer for all antennas after the meeting.

Howard, AB9FH, had 4 CD's containing information about the club for visitors. The CDs would be available at the front table after the meeting.

At 7:43 p.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pancho, KA9OFA, and seconded by Les, AB9EY. The vote to adjourn the meeting was taken by voice vote. The motion passed without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K9LCQ

Brian, K9LCQ
Secretary MRAC



Do You Know Your Q-SIGNALS?

The set of international Q-signals has been around for a long time, and most are clearly no longer needed by anyone. A small sample here gives some insight into what things were like when they were first defined. Those were the days before easy voice and data communication and electronic navigation systems, particularly GPS; the days when Morse Code was absolutely essential.

A few examples:

QAH -- What is your altitude? / My altitude is

QAZ -- Are you flying in a thunderstorm? / I am....

QBB -- What is the ceiling height? / The ceiling height is.....

QFG -- Am I over the airport? / You are over the airport.

(Negative answer is NIL)

QTO -- Have you left the harbor? / I am leaving the harbor.

QTR -- What is the exact time? / The exact time is

Many years ago, during WWII, I remember having such a list. More recently I thought it sure would be nice if I had kept it, just for old-times sake. As luck would have it, a friend in Austria who is also interested in such things, asked one day whether I would like to have a booklet about radio published in 1944 (First edition had been in 1927). I said yes, and I am glad I did. It is a lot of fun to read, to see what the radio art was like then, and what was then important to know. How times have changed!



Hans, AE9G

P.V. We Did Well

I just returned home from our workday at Pioneer Village. As you may know, we hold our Field Day (FD) at Pioneer Village and have developed a good relationship with the Ozaukee County Historical Society (OCHS). We are great guests for them and they appreciate our respect for the facility. They are great hosts that have gone above and beyond to work with us. They have even provided us with space to store some of our club equipment at no cost to us. In return, we have been looking for a way to show our appreciation.

This led to a suggestion to help with a painting project on a machine shed on the PV (Pioneer Village) grounds. We looked at the project during FD and decided this was something we could do.

Since we needed to work around our own FD schedule and other scheduled events at PV, we settled on Saturday, August 20th for our workday. As this day approached our very dry summer turned wet and complicated our efforts. We awoke on Saturday to find Milwaukee experiencing rain. A check of weather radar and a call to PV found they were dry. We decided it was a go. The first workers arrived by 8 a.m. with everyone working by 9 a.m.

PV provided everything needed (except a few ladders brought by the work crew) in generous quantities.

Everyone started using brushes to do the trim work. We were originally told we would be applying stain to the shed, but research determined paint was the covering of choice, so latex barn red paint it was. Our workgroup was great and had a good time. The camaraderie made the work fun and everyone took a little ribbing and got in a few zingers themselves. PV took care of us by providing cold soda and water.

By 10 a.m., the first of the roller work had started. The last of the roller work was completed at 11:45 a.m. just as the sky let loose with a short rain shower (which was NOT predicted in the weather forecasts!). Fortunately, the last roller work was done under the cover of an overhang and all the other work was plenty dry enough to survive the short shower. The shower was so short that it ended before we were treated to ice cream in the food barn. We all visited for a while before

Work Day continued on pg 5

OTA CW CLASSES

Dick McNew, WB9PTC, is still holding his "On The Air" code lessons/practice sessions. The class/practice is held on **Monday and Friday at 6:00 p.m.** on our repeater.

He needs more feedback from the listeners and participants to know if they are getting it and to know how to improve the lessons. If you can, check in so he has an idea how many are participating/listening.

Dick would also like to have some help with teaching the class so he can take a break once in awhile.

REMINDERS!

Please check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:30 p.m. at 28.490 MHz USB.**

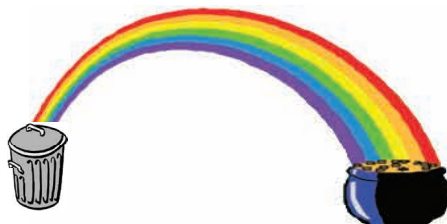
Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us. **Y'all come!!**

EVENTS

MRAC Gen. Membership Mtg.
THU. - SEP. 29, 2005

Northern Indiana HamFest *
SUN., OCT. 2, 2005
Elkhart Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
Goshen, IN
T/I on 145.430 MHz -



Amateur Radio Day
Scouting Jamboree on the Air day (JOTA)
Sat. - Oct. 15, 2005
See details elsewhere in this issue.

M.R.C. Amateur Radio Fest 2005
SAT. OCT. 29, 2005
Waukesha Co. Expo Center Forum
Bldg.s
Waukesha WI
T/I on 146.910 MHz (127.3 PL)

Fox Cities Amateur Radio *
Club SwapFest
SUN. - NOV. 6, 2005
Menasha, WI
T/I on 146.76 - rptr. PL 100 Hz

* indicates VE testing is available.

Work Day continued from pg 4

heading home for the day.

The caretakers were extremely happy with the results and quite surprised how quickly the crew got the work done (they had estimated maybe two sides of the building might get completed). We were finished before the President of OCHS arrived to open PV to the public; a big plus in their eyes.

Our efforts were truly appreciated. Everyone at PV expressed their gratitude for the effort and the support of MRAC.

I wish to personally thank all the volunteers. If you have the opportunity, please thank them on behalf of MRAC as well. They made the MRAC look good. In no particular order, thanks to Sherm Swanson, KB9Q, Les Hundt, AB9EY, Floyd Urbanski, AB9EX, Pancho Doneis, KA9OFA and Dee Atwood, no call (yet).

I need to make a couple of special mentions. Dee is a new member to the club and is, in her words, "an aspiring Technician". Even without a license, Dee jumped into this endeavor to help the club. We love this! and need more like her. Special thanks to Dee.

The longest commute award goes to Sherm. Given the cost of gasoline this day, this does rate a special mention. All of the volunteers spent a little more than their time to participate.

Les Hundt gets the best one line zinger award. Sadly, we were laughing so hard we forgot to record the words. Another reason the rest of you need to be at these events. You miss out on real fun.

Again, thanks to the volunteers. You did good for PV and MRAC. Thank you very much.

Mark, AB9CD

EXAM SCHEDULE

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule
2005-06

Sat., Sep. 24, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Oct. 29, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Nov. 26, 2005 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Jan. 7, 2006 - 9 a.m. @ AMF
Waukesha Lanes (Near EXPO)
(WARAC Swapfest)
Sat., Jan. 28, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Feb. 25, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Apr. 1, 2006 - 9 a.m. @ AES
Superfest
Sat., Apr. 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., May 27, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., July 29, 2006 - 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

73,

John (KF9XL)

KF9XL

DEADLINE

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything (announcements, stories, articles, photos, projects) for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by e-mail at:

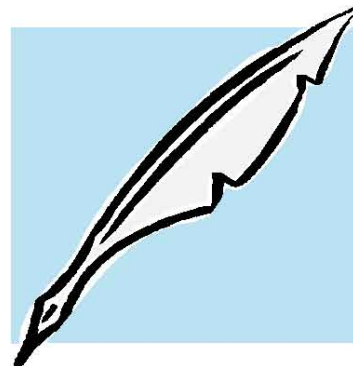
pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694



The **next meeting of MRAC**
will be **Thursday, September 29, 2005**
at **7:00 PM**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Our Repeater:

**145.390 MHz - offset
with PL of 127.3 Hz**

**Use it today and
every day!**

**Our program for the
September meeting
will be a round table
discussion on
"Contesting"
conducted by
Dick Wood, W9JBE**

Visit our website at **www.qsl.net/mrac/**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



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